lay down plans and policies for disaster management and coordinate its enforcement.

Operational difficulties faced by BSF due to lack of women battalions

72. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is true that BSF is facing operational difficulties in militancy infested and border areas due to absence of women's battalions;

(b) if so, the details of steps being taken by Government in this regard; and

(c) what is the time-frame to overcome these operational difficulties by BSF?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) No Sir. Wherever projected by BSF, Mahila Home Guards have been provided.

(c) Does not arise.

Corruption in jails

73. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that certain officials of Tihar prison in Delhi have been dismissed after they were exposed taking illegal gratification;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to ensure that corruption in jails is eliminated and only above board officials are posted in prisons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A news channel "Aaj Tak" in its telecast on 4th and 5th May, 2005 showed certain Prison staff accepting money as illegal gratification as consideration for extending certain unauthorized facilities to various prisoners. Initially, the concerned staff were placed under suspension and criminal cases registered under the